



Old Hoover Cabin on the South Fork of the Judith River
pen and ink drawing, 1912, courtesy Wiley and Janis Buchanan, Washington, DC

JAKE HOOVER AND HIS CABIN

Jake Hoover drifted into the Judith Basin in 1871 where he trapped and hunted, mostly on his own. He lived in this cabin from 1880 until 1900. Charlie Russell lived here with Jake from 1880-1882, and was a frequent visitor during his stay in the Basin. Charlie described Jake:

“He was an all around mountain man, and he knew more of nature's secrets than any scientist I have ever happened to meet.

*Jake would see game where there was nothing visible to me, and he was always right about it. He knew the ways and habits of all the wild creatures of the mountains.”**

Jake was not only an excellent hunter and trapper, he was also a good prospector, discovering such famous strikes as the Tenderfoot Bar near Gold Creek, Yogo Creek gold placers, and the famous Yogo sapphires. But due to poor timing, he never profited much from his discoveries.

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